

Taiwan plays an important role in the international community because of its democratic and economic success. Other nations are benefiting from Taiwan's access to markets and technology. It defies logic and the principle of fairness that the Taiwanese people and government are not given the same voice as everyone else throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand with our friends and allies in Taiwan and hope that you will join me in supporting strong democracy in the world.

BILL LANSFORD: WAR HERO AND CHAMPION FOR HISPANIC VETERANS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, if the United States were a house, our veterans would be its foundation. The structural integrity of our homeland has always relied on the selfless service and sacrifice of the women and men in our Armed Forces. Today I rise to honor a veteran, war hero, resident of the 36th congressional district, and my friend—retired Marine Corps Sergeant and Army combat correspondent Bill Lansford.

The Second World War required endurance and courage from our Nation. Normal lives were put on hold, and the future of democracy rested on the shoulders of America's young soldiers. As a 20 year-old Marine, Bill Lansford fought his way through the Pacific Theater—at Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Iwo Jima, three of the bloodiest battles of the war. Bill served with "Carlson's Raiders," an elite Special Forces unit, and earned numerous decorations for valor in combat.

The conclusion of World War II would not mark the end of Bill's military service. He joined the Army to write radio shows for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, would that would be interrupted by the Korean War—and his transfer to the 11th Airborne Division where he ultimately achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

The bonds that Bill Lansford forged in battle influenced his life, and he has devoted himself to representing the interests of Hispanic veterans, particularly through the work of the American GI Forum—which celebrates its 60th anniversary next year. Through membership and service, Bill has made a major contribution to the Forum's success. In Los Angeles, he is working to install a monument to recipients of the Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor. And an upcoming PBS documentary on World War II will feature him and a fellow "Carlson's Raider" discussing their wartime experiences.

Bill is married to the wonderful Ruth Lansford, an environmental activist and local legend in her own right. As founder of the Friends of Ballona, Ruth has been instrumental in preserving the beautiful Ballona Wetlands located in my district. The couple resides in Playa Del Rey, California.

I am proud to have Bill Lansford as a constituent, and pleased to commend him for his patriotism and lifelong service to country and community.

SUPPORT FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE AFRICAN UNION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article published in the New York CARIB News on July 24, 2007 entitled, "OAS-African Union Meeting Ends." This article is about the first working meeting between the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union (AU). The goals of this meeting were to strengthen the cooperation and to build on the democratic partnership between the member states of these two organizations. Secretary Rice was present during this meeting.

The working sessions of the OAS-AU meeting covered several topics including: Promoting Democracy in Latin America and Africa: From Rhetoric to Reality; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Inter-American Democratic Charter; Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Promoting Democratic Values; Political Dialogue and Conflict Prevention; Protection and Promotion of Human Rights; and Santiago to Bamako: Democracy Promotion within the Community of Democratic Process.

I am positive that the OAS-AU meeting was productive and strengthened the channels of communication between the two regions. I am eager about the prospect of an Americas-Africa Summit since the countries in both regions are sure to benefit from increased partnerships, knowledge exchange, and cooperation.

[From the New York CARIB News, July 24, 2007]

OAS-AFRICAN UNION MEETING ENDS

WASHINGTON.—The Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union (AU) recently ended their first working meeting, resolved to strengthen their cooperation around the promotion of democracy, amidst calls for an Americas-Africa Summit to consolidate the "democratic partnership" of these regions.

OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin wrapped up the historic two-day working session, calling for "a meeting of both regions at the highest political level—an Americas-Africa Summit," which would help translate the noble objectives and intentions articulated at the two-day meeting, into "real action to the benefit of both regions" in the areas of trade, economy, security, health, and other areas. "An Africa-Americas Summit could provide a valuable platform from which to build this democratic partnership between our regions; with a targeted, realistic and executable action agenda," Ramdin explained. Asserting that the strengthening of cooperation by regional organizations is even more relevant today than ever before, he said the just-concluded meeting focused on shared experiences and challenges faced by the Americas and Africa alike as they seek to promote and defend democracy.

According to Ambassador Ramdin, the discussions underscored how challenges such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion can undermine positive efforts to build democracies and peaceful societies in both continents.

"For democracy to be truly meaningful, the fruits of democracy must also nurture and feed the social and economic well being of our citizens," Ramdin went on to state, noting that "expectations in both Africa and the Americas are high."

During the meeting, the participants heard from a range of speakers, including United States Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky; former President of Cape Verde Antonio Mascaranhas Monteiro; Guatemala's Vice President Eduardo Stein; OAS Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs Dante Caputo; and AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Said Djinnit.

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CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF SAG HARBOR

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 300th anniversary of one of the most beloved and historic villages in the First Congressional District of New York, the Village of Sag Harbor.

Sag Harbor is a village of two square miles, settled in 1707 and rich in American history; from its early Algonquin Indian inhabitants to historical Revolutionary War battles which took place on the land. Sag Harbor is further distinguished by being the first official port of entry in the State of New York. It was officially established as a state port of entry in 1789 by the First Congress of the United States and approved by President George Washington, just one day before New York City.

The area grew in those early days as a result of its thriving whaling industry. Local men, together with foreign whalers, brought culture and customs from distant lands to Sag Harbor. During this time period Sag Harbor became a truly international port town, where diverse cultures came together. Sag Harbor was even prominently mentioned in Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick*.

Today finds the village of Sag Harbor split between the Long Island towns of Southampton and East Hampton. With a population of about 2,300 friendly residents, bustling main streets and beautifully scenic areas, Sag Harbor Village has become a premier tourist destination in the United States.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I rise to recognize the unique contributions of the Village of Sag Harbor, and to commemorate its 300th Anniversary.